



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Month

WHEREAS, dating violence is a pattern of behavior involving the use or attempted use of physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, financial, technological, or other abusive behavior by a person to harm, coerce, control, threaten, intimidate, harass, isolate, restrain, or monitor another person with whom they have or have had a social relationship involving a physical, sexual, or emotional component; and

WHEREAS, one in three girls in the United States will experience physical, emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner by the time she graduates high school, a figure that far exceeds victimization rates for other types of violence affecting youth; and

WHEREAS, despite frighteningly high numbers of reports of dating violence, two-thirds of young victims never report being abused; and

WHEREAS, high school victims of dating violence are significantly more susceptible than their fellow students to suicide, depression, self-destructive behavior, eating disorders, absence from school, substance abuse, teen pregnancy and STIs, and they will often carry patterns of victimization into adult relationships; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to raise awareness among communities and to provide training for teachers, counselors, and school staff so that they may recognize when youth are exhibiting signs of dating violence; and


WHEREAS, by providing young people with education about building healthy relationships, how to recognize early warning signs, violence, and abuse, and how to seek help, by providing safe environments for discussion, and by changing the attitudes that support violence, we recognize that dating violence can be prevented; and

WHEREAS, Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Month provides an excellent opportunity for all citizens to learn about preventing dating violence and to show support for the numerous organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, services, and support to these young victims; and


WHEREAS, the establishment of Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Month will benefit young people, their families, schools, and communities regardless of socioeconomic status, ability, race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or ethnicity; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby proclaim February, 2013 as Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Month in the State of Rhode Island and encourage all residents to recognize the importance of this month.




A. Ralph Mollis
Secretary of State

Given under my hand and the great
seal of the State of Rhode Island
and Providence Plantations,
this 13th day of February, 2013


Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor